

Subject: cleaning of coins

Harris, Fred W., Rev.

[Madison, WI]

1931-1932

Methodist Episcopal Church

West Wisconsin Conference — Madison-Platteville District

Madison, Wisconsin

SUPERINTENDENT
REV. FRED W. HARRIS

RES. 1145 RUTLEDGE ST
TELEPHONE F. 4848

RESIDENT BISHOP
REV. CHAS. EDW. LOCKE

1000 PORTLAND AVENUE
ST. PAUL, MINN.

March, 2-1931.

Mr. Howland Wood

New York City.

My Dear Mr. Wood:-

In the February number of the Numismatist, a statement occurs in the reports, I think in your report as curator, about the new process of cleaning and restoring old and corroded bronze coins. Apparently, the process is successful.

What I want to know is, can you give me an outline of the process of treatment that I can apply? I have had some training in electricity and did advance work in chemistry in my college days, but, I have a friend in the chemistry Dept of the University of Wis., and could avail myself of his help at any time.

I have about 150 bronze coins pretty badly corroded. I would like to do something with them, but they are not of the grade to justify very much expense on them, so had thought of doing the work myself, if there is something that can be done.

I would appreciate very much the information from you that will give me the working of the plan etc. If there is any expense connected to the giving or getting it written out, I will gladly stand all of that.

Thanking you for any information that you can give, I am,

A.N.A. Member, 2963.

Cordially yours.

Fred W. Harris

March 4, 1931

Rev. Fred W. Harris
1145 Rutledge Street
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

Responding to your letter of the 2nd, concerning the cleaning of coins by the Fink process, when we have this work done on a large scale, it is done for us at Columbia University. They attach the apparatus to a direct wire and stop it down to about six volts by the use of carbon lamps or some sort of a reducing machine. Here at the Museum we have a small outfit known as the Kupper Drimetallic Disc Trickle Charger, made by the Kodak Radio Corporation, Cincinnati. To the positive end there is attached a piece of platinum and on the negative end we connect the coins either by touching each one to the other, or with wire. The solution is caustic soda which comes in sticks in a glass jar, and a three-inch stick is dissolved in a quart of water and sometimes a little more. We have on hand different jars of this solution - one for silver coins and one for copper coins. We can take the tarnish off of silver coins in an hour or so, and clean badly discolored silver coins in the time of about one day to a week or so. Copper coins can be cleaned fairly easily in an hour or so, but if they are badly corroded it may take up to eight or nine months, depending upon how badly they are oxidized. We find that we cannot leave them in the bath too long, and the slower it is done the better, especially with corrosion. As a matter of fact, if you find the bath works too quickly and a badly corroded coin does not come out as well as you think it should, stop down the current still more. As the solution evaporates you can simply add water. We have found that after taking the coin out of the bath and washing it in water, if it becomes warm, the piece should go back again into the bath. As yet we have not been successful in cleaning lead. I think Mr. Fink is now experimenting on this. The few lead pieces we tried we nearly spoiled.

I hope this information will be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

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REV. CHAS. EDW. LOCKE

1000 PORTLAND AVENUE
ST. PAUL, MINN.

Feb, II-1932.

Mr. Sydney P. Nee

New York City.

Dear Mr. Nee:-

In the Curator's report of the A.N.S. in the current number of the Numismatist, second paragraph, page, 104, he uses these words: "The Travelling Exhibition of Coins Arranged by Centuries," etc. For some years, I have been trying to build up an Educational Exhibit along this line. And I thought that perhaps your Society had some printed matter, or Announcements of your Exhibit as per above, that would be helpful to me in my work.

If you have anything along the line of your Travelling Ex, I would very much like to receive it. If you have not, and can take the time to do so, I would very much like to have you just give me a general idea of how you have proceeded to build up your Exhibit.

During Nov, last, I spent a few days in New York, and made the attempt to see your new Building, but that was on Sunday, and I had to spend part of the day in Brooklyn, so by the time I reach your location, the Building was closed. I was very disappointed, as I have desired for a number of years to see your work and Exhibits. Hope to be able to do so some time.

Thanking you for the kindness of an early reply, I am,

Cordially yours.

Fred W. Harris

February 15, 1932.

Mr. Fred W. Harris
1145 Rutledge St.
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Mr. Noe has requested me to answer your letter to him. We do not have any printed matter concerning the travelling exhibit. This is composed of 260 coins, 10 coins to a century, with a label for each coin and another label for each century. This exhibit was assembled from our collection of approximately 100,000 coins, to give in a compact form a bird's eye of coinage from its inception to the present day. The exhibition is slated until about the end of this year and can only go to other museums and libraries that can adequately protect and show it. In building up this exhibit we tried to use those coins that were of the general type made in each century - not freakish or unusual coins. Mostly the pieces picked out were European coins with enough oriental coins to round out the series. We used no Chinese or Japanese coins as we did not think it was necessary in this instance. I trust when you are in New York again you will pay our museum a visit.

Very truly yours,

HW: JG

Curator

Methodist Episcopal Church

West Wisconsin Conference — Madison-Platteville District

Madison, Wisconsin

SUPERINTENDENT
REV. FRED W. HARRIS

~~RES. 1145 RUTLEDGE ST~~

TELEPHONE F. 4848

Orton Court.

May, 11-1932.

RESIDENT BISHOP
REV. CHAS. EDW. LOCKE

1000 PORTLAND AVENUE

ST. PAUL, MINN.

Mr. Howland Wood

New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:--

Yesterday noon, we had a Meeting of our Organization Com, on next years Coin Show etc. I was asked to write you again about the possibility of securing the A.N.S. Travelling Exhibit for our Show?

We did not sent the date, but would like to do so, in the near future. Is there any possibility that an open date might occur any time during November, 1932, on which we could have the Exhibit? Our Committee is planning quite an extensive Show and think they would like to stage the Event during Nov. However, we can set a date during the winter of 1933.

Under date of April, 1st, I wrote you about this matter, but guess you have not cleared all of your dating as yet, so that I would write you again about a possible Nov. date.

Will be glad to hear from you at your earliest opportunity.

Cordially yours.

Fred W. Harris

May 27, 1932.

Rev. Fred W. Harris
Orton Court
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr Harris:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letter of May 11th, as I had to take the matter up with the President. By instructions of our governing body, the traveling exhibit can only be loaned to museums and certain libraries that can give it absolute protection. It would have to be shown in proper cases and guarded against theft and should be insured for at least \$4,000.00.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Superannuated Preachers' Fund

FRED J. JORDAN
PRESIDENT
EAU CLAIRE, WIS.

WEST WISCONSIN CONFERENCE
716 ORTON COURT
MADISON, WISCONSIN

FRED W. HARRIS
SECRETARY-TREASURER
MADISON, WIS.

July, 9-1932.

Mr. Howland Wood

New York City.

My Dear Mr. Wood:-

I regret that it will not be possible for us to enjoy the presence of your A.N.S. Travelling Exhibit of coins in our city some time in the near future. However, I shall hope to see it the next visit I make to New York.

During the Summer, I am assembling quite a large part of my Educational Exhibit of coins of the World. And I am wondering, if it would be possible for you to secure for me a list, by centuries, of your Travelling Exhibit of coins. As I understand, they are made up by centuries. I would very much like to see the list that composes the Exhibit.

Would it be asking too much of you, to have a stenographer make out a list as the coins are assembled and send to me some time soon? I shall spend the latter part of July and all of Aug, in this work. I am sure that it would be a help to me to see a list of the coins that make up your Exhibit.

I will gladly pay for the service of making this list, if you find no objection to letting me have it. I would like to see what coins you experts have placed in the different centuries, as best illustrating the coinage and civilization of that time.

If you prefer that the list be kept from the public, I will gladly see that it goes no further, but, being at the same task that you men have completed, I am sure your classification would be a help and inspiration to me in my work.

Thanking you and trusting that you will find it possible to supply the above desired list, I am,

Cordially yours.

Fred W. Harris

July 15, 1932.

Mr. Fred W. Harris
716 Orton Court
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am sending under separate cover the photographic record of our traveling exhibit. This you are at liberty to keep for awhile but eventually I would want it returned as it is part of our records. Unfortunately the negatives are lost. I think from this you can get all the information you desire.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Superannuated Preachers' Fund

FRED J. JORDAN
PRESIDENT
EAU CLAIRE, WIS.

WEST WISCONSIN CONFERENCE
716 ORTON COURT
MADISON, WISCONSIN

FRED W. HARRIS
SECRETARY-TREASURER
MADISON, WIS.

Aug, 13-1932.

Mr. Howland Wood

New York City.

My Dear Mr. Wood:-

Please excuse this tardy way of recognizing your kindness in sending the photos of the A.N.S. Travelling Exhibit of coins etc. This was very kind of you, and I appreciate it very much. It will be a real help to me.

One question I would like to ask:-How do you mount the coins? Are they put on card board with glue, or with what? How are they fastened to their respective mounts? And does it injure coins to use glue on them?

I shall carefully protect the photos and return them within a few weeks.

Guess this letter will have to await your return from the A.N. A. that is if you get there, as I trust you will. I am not able to go this year. Be sure and vote the next conv for Chicago.

Thanking you for the above information at your earliest convenient time, I am,

Cordially yours.

Fred W. Harris

August 17, 1932.

Mr. Fred W. Harris
716 Orton Court
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. Harris:

In answer to your inquiry we never show coins except lying flat in a case on either black velvet or black felt. We never fasten these down as any fastening material does injury to the coin. We never show coins in upright cases unless the back board is at an slight angle and narrow wooden strips are fastened on this board and the coins laid on the strips. Unfortunately I am not going out to the convention this year. I have neither the time nor the money.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator